

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 MCT-01 CU-04 A-01

OPR-02 USSS-00 SCS-06 CA-01 OC-06 CCO-00 HA-05

FBOE-00 /110 W

-----003568 021141Z /20

R 010855Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4085

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PROP, PEPR, BU, US, XN, XF

SUBJECT: THREATENED ARAB STUDENT ACTION AGAINST EMBASSY

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REF: SOFIA 0096, 0124 AND 0148

SUMMARY: BARRIERS IN FRONT OF EMBASSY WERE REMOVED

JANUARY 30. AFTER NEARLY TWO WEEKS OF HEIGHTENED SECURITY

READINESS, EMBASSY HAS RESUMED NORMAL ROUTINE. END

SUMMARY.

1. DCM MET AGAIN WITH DAMYANOV JANUARY 30. DAMYANOV REPORTED THAT GOB SECURITY AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THREAT AGAINST EMBASSY STILL EXISTED, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY SPECIFICS. DCM SAID THAT BARRIERS IN FRONT OF EMBASSY BUILDING SHOULD BE REMOVED; THEY HAD BEEN UP A LONG TIME WITH NO EVIDENT NEED, AND WERE HAMPERING NORMAL OPERATIONS.

2. DAMYANOV AT FIRST TOOK LINE THAT IF EMBASSY INSISTED ON SUDDEN AND COMPLETE REMOVAL OF EXTRA SECURITY PRECAUTIONS--BARRIERS PLUS EXTRA MILITSIAMEN--IN FACE OF GOB EVALUATION OF CONTINUING THREAT, EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN REQUEST RELEASING GOB FROM ANY LIABILITY IN CASE OF DEMONSTRATION OR INCIDENT CAUSING DAMAGE TO EMBASSY. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, DAMYANOV PROVED WILLING TO AGREE TO PROMPT REMOVAL OF BARRIERS SO LONG AS TWO OR THREE EXTRA MILITSIAMEN REMAINED IN GENERAL AREA NEAR EMBASSY ENTRANCE. DCM SAID WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO AN EXTRA MILITSIAMAN OR TWO PROVIDED THEY DID NOT INTERFERE WITH NORMAL PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING, ESPECIALLY IN DISPLAY WINDOW AREA AND AT ENTRANCE. DAMYANOV AGREED.

3. BY 1930 THAT EVENING THE BARRIERS WERE REMOVED--13 DAYS AFTER BEING INSTALLED. CROWDS IN FRONT OF DISPLAY WINDOWS JANUARY 31 SEEMED SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN USUAL. CONFIDENTIAL

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DURING MOST OF THE DAY, TWO MILITSIAMEN GUARDED EMBASSY, ONE REMAINING IN HIS BOOTH WITH SECOND PATROLLING BACK AND FORTH NEAR EMBASSY ENTRANCE. LATTER HAS BEEN ON GOOD BEHAVIOR SO FAR AND HAS NOT INTERFERED WITH PASSERSBY. EMBASSY MARINE DETACHMENT HAS RESUMED NORMAL ROUTINE. GARTHOFF

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NNN

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